

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**DRAFT Key Meeting Outcomes
September 19, 2008
Casa Las Palmas, Santa Barbara, CA**

Note: This document will be posted on line at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>. Audio recordings of this and other Council meetings are available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Attendance: At peak, seventeen of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present. Four seats were absent for the day: California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, Business, and Ventura County. Public attendance varied from ten to thirty-two people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

New members were announced and introduced: Brian Johnson (Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary member), Peter Fischel (National Marine Fisheries Service member) and Susan Curtis (County of Santa Barbara alternate).

The draft meeting notes from the July 18th meeting were not yet available for review and adoption.

Superintendent's Report

Mike Murray, sitting in for absent Superintendent Chris Mobley, highlighted several items in the Superintendent's Report (provided to all SAC members and the attending public and available at <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html>).

Mike also announced the following:

- Acknowledgement and thanks to additional staff and leadership from NMFS, the USCG, and the Marine Exchange of Southern California that were present at the meeting.
- Thirteen Advisory Council seats will be open for recruitment from September 29, 2008 to October 24, 2008. The seats are: Commercial Fishing member and alternate, Conservation member and alternate, Tourism member, Non-consumptive Recreational member and alternate, Research member and alternate, Business member and alternate, and two Public-at-large member positions.
- The Park and Sanctuary's annual volunteer recognition dinner was held on Tuesday September 16, 2008. Dianne Black received the "Sanctuary Advisory Council Leadership Award."
- Sean Hastings was recently awarded "Employee of the Year" by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

Council Member Announcements

A number of Council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Audio recordings are available upon request.

Ocean Acidification

Dr. Richard Feely of NOAA and Dr. Gretchen Hofmann of UCSB provided educational presentations about ocean acidification, including a focus on work happening along the West Coast. Both presentations are available on request from michael.murray@noaa.gov and will be posted on the SAC web site at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac>.

Shiva Polefka presented the changes made to the Conservation Working Group's draft ocean acidification report.

- The council unanimously voted to adopt the report. The final report, "Ocean Acidification and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: Cause, effect, and response" is available here: http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html.

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Marija Vojkovich, Marine Region Manager with the California Department of Fish and Game, explained to the Council that at a recent meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission there was some discussion about the Channel Islands MPAs being considered and possibly changed by the MLPA process. She described Commissioner comments as

results helping to inform the MLPA process.

Captain David Bacon asked Marija to please look into the possibility of having a calico bass tagging study become part of the report on MPA monitoring. Marija said she would look into it.

Ship Strikes

Sean Hastings summarized recent progress made by the Council's Subcommittee and efforts made by staff and partners.

Natalie Senyk provided a presentation on recent whale sightings in the Santa Barbara Channel, as reported from whale watch vessels and aerial surveillance. The Council learned the location and numbers of whales recently sighted.

Megan McKenna from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography provided an assessment of ship speeds this whale season. The Council learned that, based on Automated Information System data, ships did not noticeably slow down following the August 13, 2008 Notice to Mariners voluntary request.

Maria Petueli summarized the efforts the Sanctuary Education Team has made to work with the Marine Exchange of Southern California and others to effectively connect with the shipping industry.

Linda Krop offered a proposal and motion to continue the effort to investigate best ways to provide long term protection of large cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel by using a SAC subcommittee approach, rather than by creating a new working group. This subcommittee would consist of current subcommittee members, possibly adding a representative from the California Resources Agency, and would be informed by the RAP, SET, and CWG as appropriate. These working groups could also expand their membership or call on experts as necessary.

- The council voted unanimously to maintain the subcommittee structure as described by Linda.

Sanctuary Condition Report

Dani Lipski provided a presentation on the CINMS Draft Sanctuary Condition Report, focusing on the design and process of creating the report.

Bob Warner presented the Research Activities Panel (RAP) review of the report. The RAP's main concern was that the report alone should not be used to make management decisions because there is a lack of data available to make the assessments in the report. Much of the assessments were made using expert opinion.

- A motion was made and unanimously passed to forward the RAP's review to Chris Mobley and to ask Chris to forward the report on up the chain to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

Working Group Reports

The Conservation Working Group and Recreational Fishing Working Group summarized their recent meetings. The Commercial Fishing Working group did not hold a working group meeting but summarized a related meeting that was held with many of the working group members.

Future Meeting Schedule

- The Council adopted the 2009 schedule as outlined in the Final Agenda.
 - Friday January 23, 2009 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
 - Friday March 20, 2009 (SAC meeting, Ventura)
 - May 4-7, 2009: SAC Chairs annual meeting (Alpena, Michigan)
 - Friday May 15, 2009 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
 - Friday July 17, 2009 (SAC meeting, Ventura)
 - Friday September 18, 2009 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
 - Friday November 20, 2009 (SAC meeting, Ventura)